



A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound

**EPA-LONG ISLAND SOUND OFFICE/NEW
YORK SEA GRANT/CONNECTICUT SEA GRANT
PARTNERSHIP *Announcement of Opportunity***

2003 Long Island Sound Study Science and Technical Advisory Committee Fellowship Program

OPENING DATE: August 15, 2003

CLOSING DATE: September 15, 2003

Background

As part of the Long Island Sound Study (LISS), the Environmental Protection Agency-Long Island Sound Office, Connecticut Sea Grant, and New York Sea Grant are cooperating to award partial fellowships to two graduate students to participate in and support the work of the Long Island Sound Study's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). The purpose of the fellowships is to provide direct experience of Long Island Sound issues and programs to students interested in careers in environmental management. Successful applicants will be masters or doctoral students: 1) whose research will be on a topic relevant to understanding and managing Long Island Sound, and 2) who have a strong interest in coastal environmental management. The LISS Fellows will work closely with the STAC co-chairs, providing an average of 10 hours per week of administrative and technical support to the STAC during the academic year and 20 hours per week during the summer. The support includes preparing and distributing minutes, gathering background reports on topics, writing white papers on technical issues under review by the STAC, and preparing an annual report of STAC activities and recommendations to the LISS Management Conference. The LISS Fellows will attend LISS Technical Advisory Committee meetings (approximately four per year) at various locations around the Sound. Travel funds for this purpose will be made available to the Fellows, as appropriate.

In 2003, the Long Island Sound Study will award two half-time fellowships to graduate students conducting research on the Long Island Sound ecosystem. Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited doctoral or master's program, must have a thesis advisor and advisory committee (if appropriate to the institution), and must have a thesis research plan approved by the student's institution or department. Awards will include half-time support for one year at a level consistent with the policy of the student's graduate institution, and will include health benefits and indirect costs. The student's advisor and home university will be expected to be the primary source of support for materials and expenses required to do the thesis research, and will also be expected to provide a full tuition waiver or reimbursement. The LISS will not accept applications for extensions of existing fellowships. Applications for graduate fellowships must be received by September 15, 2003. Decisions will be made by October 1, 2003.

Proposal Design and Submission

The following materials must be included in an application:

1. *A proposal cover page* that includes the name of the student, the title of the thesis/dissertation and whether it's at the master or doctoral level, and the name and title of the student's advisor.
2. *A description* (two pages maximum) of the thesis project that includes a statement of the objectives of the project, the approach to the research, the significance and relevance of the project to the management of Long Island Sound and a timetable for the completion of the research.
3. *A description* (two pages maximum) of the student's interest in coastal management.
4. *A resume* of the student.
5. *A letter from the University* stating that the student will receive a tuition waiver or reimbursement for the period of the fellowship.
6. *A letter of support from the student's advisor* confirming half-time stipend, materials and expense support for the student's thesis research project, and certifying the advisor's commitment to the goals of the fellowship and the student's time commitment to participate in the Long Island Sound Study.

The application must be received by EPA-LISO no later than **4:00 P.M. EDT on September 15, 2003**. No fax or email submissions will be accepted. Completed proposals must be sent to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Long Island Sound Office
Stamford Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06904-2152
Facsimile: 203-977-1546

Proposal Review and Award

Fellows will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications and experience of the applicant;
2. Technical merit of the applicant's proposed research and relevancy to Long Island Sound Study priority issues;
3. Demonstrated ability to write and communicate clearly;
4. Interest and commitment of the applicant to learn about and participate in Long Island Sound management programs.

Fellowship awards will be made through the student's academic institution. One applicant will be selected from a Connecticut institution and one from a New York institution. Successful applicants and advisors may need to submit additional materials and appointment forms to Connecticut Sea Grant, New York Sea Grant, or the University grant offices upon selection.

Information on the LISS, a regional, community-based, partnership to protect and restore Long Island Sound, can be obtained at www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis.

EPA-LISO, CTSG, and NYSG are cooperating to initiate this program. Further information, if needed, may be obtained by contacting Mr. Mark Tedesco, director of the EPA Long Island Sound Office by email at tedesco.mark@epa.gov or telephone (203) 977-1541.